

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2017

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "Nay" on Roll Call No. 395, and "Nay" on Roll Call No. 396.

SUGAR LAND NATIVE NAMED A
2017 NASA ASTRONAUT CANDIDATE**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Loral O'Hara of Sugar Land, TX, a Clements High School Ranger, for being selected by NASA to join the 2017 Astronaut Candidate Class.

Currently working as a Research Engineer for the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Loral has an exceptional professional history, including working as a design engineer, mechanical technician and as a project engineer. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Kansas and a Master of Science degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Purdue University. Loral will report for duty this August, where she will begin her two years of training as an Astronaut Candidate. Once done, she will be assigned technical duties in the Astronaut Office while she awaits a flight assignment.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Loral for being selected as a NASA Astronaut Candidate. We are very proud of her and look forward to her representing TX-22 in space.

IMPORTANT ISSUES OF THE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS A. GARRETT, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I hadn't intended to but I'll begin my remarks by addressing his remarks. And I'll do something that I rarely do and that is to quote a French historian, political scientist, and diplomat, and that is Alexis de Tocqueville, who stated, "The American Republic will endure until the day that Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's own money. The previous administration was led by an individual who on the campaign trail said that 7 trillion dollars in debt was "unpatriotic." Now we sit at the precipice of 20 trillion dollars in debt after two terms and I would submit that perhaps that's unpatriotic multiplied by three, or nearly that, and echo the sentiments of Mr. SCHWEIKERT that it is absolutely, positively unsustainable. Now there are ways that we could certainly deal with runaway debt. One way would be to completely devalue the currency. If you really want to step away from the

hyperbolic barbs that are thrown by my colleagues across the aisle as it relates to the motives for the legislation that we carry and find out who would really be harming seniors and children, it would be those who would continue to spend until the only way to cover the tab was to deflate the value of the very monies set aside to care for those least able to care for themselves. And so I thank Congressman SCHWEIKERT, not only for his wise remarks but also for reminding me just how much I miss being a member of the state house in the Commonwealth of Virginia where there is actual back and forth debate on the merits of issues, wherein those small percentage of individuals who choose to inform themselves might shape their opinion based on a discourse rather than people standing at this microphone unchecked.

Which leads me to my next point, which is also not on the subject that I originally intended to address and that is, the statement of my distinguished colleague from Maryland, Mr. RASKIN, who spoke on this floor about 45 minutes ago on a subject that's important not just to him, and not just to me, but to America, and that is on the subject of asset forfeiture. His comments were indicative of the tone that this body has devolved into. One of the many Democrats who I admire, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who Vanity Fair described as a fervent Democrat who saw the value of working with Republicans (where is he today?), once said, "You're entitled to your own opinions, but you're not entitled to your own facts." Mr. RASKIN said the Trump Administration was burdening Americans by virtue of an asset forfeiture policy and he cited the case of a Chinese restaurant and an entrepreneur who he said had amassed 25,000 dollars so that he could buy a building, but he was going over the speed limit so he was pulled over by police so without cause they took his money and it took 7 years according to my colleague to recoup his money and the opportunity was lost and that's what's wrong with Mr. Trump's policy. Wow. And he implored listeners to please look up this case, so I did. In fact there was a man who had saved money to open up a Chinese restaurant who was going 10 miles an hour over the speed limit who was pulled over by law enforcement who had not 25 but 75,000 dollars forfeited and it took him not 7 years but 10 months to get it back and it happened in 2014 and I'm not terribly sure who was president then and I'm not terribly sure who was president then but I don't think it was Donald Trump! So I will join my colleague in suggesting that we need asset forfeiture review and refer in this country, but please, you're entitled to your own opinions, you're not entitled to your own facts.

Now why am I hear tonight? Golly ned why am I hear at all? Who are we as a nation? I tell my children if you want to know what's the right thing to do in life when you're confronted with challenges, when you have a dilemma, ask yourself who do I want to be, not who am I, but who do I want to be, because I hope I never reach my aspirational goals, but I keep trying as long as I am here. I don't think that if you reach all your goals for who you want to be that you've aimed high enough. And if you ask yourself who I want to be when you face that ethical or moral dilemma you will always then come up with the right answer when you answer what the person you want to be, would do. And so I grew up with a father who actu-

ally had a name for the belt that he wore around his waist, it was the enforcer. I had a mother who thought I could do anything I wanted to do and a father who would kick my tail if I didn't give it my best effort. I spent nearly ten years as a prosecutor and I can't tell you how many times I looked down the dais at the criminal defendant and thought, I wonder but there for the grace of God, go I. But for the fact that I was blessed with amazing parents who encouraged me who loved me and disciplined me and told me the things I could do, unlike so many in political office today who garner votes and support by telling people what they can't do, what they need done for them.

By gosh this country was built on a government dependent upon people, not a people dependent upon government. And that's who we are. Now, who are we going to be? Where are we going? A wiser person than I once said, "If you want to know where you're going, you should look where you've been." It's a relatively humbling thing to do representing the fifth district of Virginia, because the fifth district of Virginia was first represented by in this institution by James Madison. I tell people those are some very small, big shoes to fill. Very small, big shoes to fill. James Madison won the congressional seat when he ran in an election against a pillar of American foreign policy named Monroe. They were so collegial during the campaign that they often traveled together and when Madison was elected to Congress, prior to the Seventeenth Amendment, he went to the Virginia Assembly, the longest serving, democratically elected, legislative body on the planet Earth, and suggested that James Monroe should be the Senator, and indeed he was made the Senator. So we have Madison, we have Monroe. The drafter of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson, lived in Virginia's fifth district. The arbiter of the power of the Article III branch of government, the Supreme Court, John Marshall, retired in Virginia's fifth district. Patrick Henry retired in Virginia's fifth district. Lee and Grant sat at a table at Appomattox Courthouse at the end of the American Civil War in the fifth district of Virginia. And a young woman named Barbara Johns stood up in the face of possible injury or death to start the Virginia Civil Rights movement in the fifth district. So it's pretty humbling and it gives me a good lesson in who we are. So many on my side of the aisle criticized President Obama when he said, you know if you have a business, you didn't do that, somebody else did that for you. I'll defend him, I'll defend him. You did it, with blood and sweat and tears and hardwork and persistence and willingness to stand up time and again after failing. You did it because you stood on the shoulders of giants who gave you the opportunity to do it. That imperfect people, Thomas Jefferson, a slave owner, who gave us near perfect documents, James Madison, documents that have been revised, oh I don't know 27 times in hundreds of years. That we constantly should strive to be a more perfect union. That we will never achieve that status of a perfect union, so long as institutions on Earth are governed by mere mortal men, but that we have a duty in this nation to try to continue to. So that's why I'm here. I'm not here to perpetuate my own power. I understand that the most indispensable person is the person who recognizes that they are not indispensable. Folks drive past the graveyard